TOWN SCORES IN SUSTAINABILITY INDEX

By Liam Timmins

Ballinasloe achieved a second place finish on a recent study by the Western Development Commission measuring towns for their sustainability and accessibility of transport, just being triumphed by Shannon in its overall mobility ranking.

The Sustainable Mobility Index 2022, developed by the WDC's Dr Helen McHenry, aimed to assess modes of transport across 35 rural towns within Galway, Roscommon, Clare, Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim, and Donegal. The study reflects a shift in policy towards sustainable travel, encouraging active and public transport and the reduction of carbon emissions. Additionally, it sought to analyse accessibility and future developments needed for commuting in these rural towns.

The report was divided into 3 primary sub-headings, each featuring 10 indicators analysing different aspects of transport within the town. For the first primary heading Readiness for Low Carbon Transition regarding environmental concerns and access to schools, Ballinasloe reached second place scoring 63/100, just being outplaced by Carrick-On-Shannon. The town received a less favourable ranking with the second heading Access to Services and Social Facilities, reaching eight place with a score of 52/100. The third heading Access to Employment and Economic Activity had Ballinasloe placed third below Tuam and Athenry scoring 75/100, highlighting the town's relative convenient access to places of work.

The town scored First place in availability of charging points for electric vehicles, achieving a 10/10 against the average towns 2.4/10. Active travel and public transport to secondary schools was marked as a drawback, receiving a score of only 4/10 and a 29th finish against an average of 5.6/10.

The town's Access to Services and Social Facilities scored mixed results, poor results in overall travel times to its nearest international airport, accepting a 28th ranking and a score of 3/10 to an average of 5.3/10, naturally the town scored highly in travel time by car and public transport to hospital outpatient services, gaining first place and a score of 10/10.

Indicators within Access to Employment and Economic Activity received commendable results, most notably with our area being commended for its Evening Public Transport Service to and from a larger town, achieving a second place finish and a 7/10 against an average of 2.8/10.

The rankings and commentary featured in the report are designed to help those providing transport, engaged in transport policy and in town development to decide what measures need to be taken going forward and identify environmentally beneficial practices, hopefully aiding in improving our towns transiting future.

NEW OMNIPLEX CINEMA

Ballinasloe New Omniplex cinema, is fast approaching its Official Opening in May with Group Director Mark Anderson hinting that there will be a gala screening of Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3. to kick start Commercial Movie Return to town.

The new theatre will boast 5 screens in its state-of-the-art facility with an Omniplex Maxx auditorium complete, with rocker seats, double sofa beds, a 16 metre wide screen and Dolby audio technology. This will provide the town with 65 full/part time jobs.

Watch Social Media over the coming weeks for updates .

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